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In the claims:

1. (Original) A restraints control module (RCM) for a vehicle comprising:

a memory device for storing a deployment time of a deployment event;

and

a controller electrically coupled to said memory device, said controller determining when to deploy a restraint and storing said deployment time.

2. (Amended) A restraints control module (RCM) for a vehicle comprising:

a memory device for storing a deployment time of a deployment event;

and

a controller electrically coupled to said memory device, said controller determining when to deploy a restraint and storing said deployment time;

A module as in claim 1 wherein said controller stores in said memory device a deployment time comprising at least one of: start time, duration, and end time.

3. (Original) A module as in claim 1 wherein said controller stores in said memory device a fault time corresponding to said deployment time.

4. (Amended) A restraints control module (RCM) for a vehicle comprising:

a memory device for storing a deployment time of a deployment event;

a controller electrically coupled to said memory device, said controller determining when to deploy a restraint, storing said deployment time, and storing in said memory device a fault time corresponding to said deployment time; and

~~A module as in claim 3 further comprising a comparator electrically coupled to said controller, said comparator comparing said deployment time with a fault time and determining whether said fault time corresponds with said deployment time.~~

5. (Original) A module as in claim 4 further comprising an indicator electrically coupled to said controller and indicating when a deployment time corresponds with a fault time.

6. (Original) A module as in claim 5 wherein said indicator comprises at least one of: a pulsating indicator, a light bulb, an LED, a fluorescent light, an audible signal, a visual signal, a 7-segment display, an analog gage, a digital meter, a video system, and a hazard light.

7. (Amended) A restraints control module (RCM) for a vehicle comprising:

a memory device for storing a deployment time of a deployment event;

a controller electrically coupled to said memory device, said controller determining when to deploy a restraint and storing said deployment time; and

~~A module as in claim 1 further comprising an indicator electrically coupled to said controller, said indicator continuously indicating that the RCM has been on a vehicle that has been involved in a collision, until such time when the RCM is serviced or replaced.~~

8. (Amended) A restraints control module (RCM) for a vehicle comprising:

a memory device for storing a deployment time of a deployment event;

a controller electrically coupled to said memory device, said controller determining when to deploy a restraint and storing said deployment time; and

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~~A module as in claim 1 further comprising an indicator electrically coupled to said controller, said indicator permanently indicating that the RCM has been on a vehicle that has been involved in a collision.~~

9. (Amended) A restraints control module (RCM) for a vehicle comprising:

a memory device for storing a deployment time of a deployment event;

and

a controller electrically coupled to said memory device, said controller determining when to deploy a restraint and storing said deployment time;

~~A module as in claim 1 wherein said controller stores in said memory device a restraint power draw value during said deployment event.~~

10. (Amended) A restraints control module (RCM) for a vehicle comprising:

a memory device for storing a deployment time of a deployment event;

and

a controller electrically coupled to said memory device, said controller determining when to deploy a restraint and storing said deployment time;

~~A module as in claim 1 wherein information stored in said memory device is uneraseable, unresettable, and unoverwritable.~~

11. (Amended) A restraints control module (RCM) for a vehicle comprising:

a memory device for storing a deployment time of a deployment event;

and

a controller electrically coupled to said memory device, said controller determining when to deploy a restraint and storing said deployment time;

~~A module as in claim 1 wherein the controller stores RCM operating time in said stored device.~~

12. (Original) A restraints control module (RCM) for a vehicle comprising:

an indicator;

a memory device for storing a deployment start time of a deployment event; and

a controller electrically coupled to said indicator and said memory device, said controller determining when to deploy a restraint and storing said deployment start time and duration in said memory device;

said controller storing a fault time in said memory device and signaling said indicator when said fault time corresponds to said deployment start time and duration.

13. (Amended) A module as in claim ~~11~~12 wherein said indicator continuously indicating that the RCM has been on a vehicle that has been involved in a collision.

14. (Amended) A module as in claim ~~11~~12 further comprising a comparator electrically coupled to said controller, said comparator comparing said deployment time with a fault time and determining whether said fault time corresponds with said deployment time.

15. (Amended) A module as in claim ~~11~~12 wherein information stored in said memory device is uneraseable, unresettable, and unoverwritable.

16. (Original) A method of time stamping and indicating a deployment event within an automotive vehicle having a RCM, said method comprising:

sensing a collision;

generating a collision signal in response to said collision;

deploying a restraint in response to said collision signal; and
storing a deployment time.

17. (Amended) A method of time stamping and indicating a deployment event within an automotive vehicle having a RCM, said method comprising:

sensing a collision;

generating a collision signal in response to said collision;

deploying a restraint in response to said collision signal; and

storing a deployment time;

~~A method as in claim 15 wherein storing a deployment time comprises storing a deployment time comprising at least one of: start time, duration, and end time.~~

18. (Amended) A method of time stamping and indicating a deployment event within an automotive vehicle having a RCM, said method comprising:

sensing a collision;

generating a collision signal in response to said collision;

deploying a restraint in response to said collision signal;

storing a deployment time; and

A method as in claim 15 further comprising indicating whether the RCM has been on a vehicle that has been involved in a collision, wherein said indication is uneraseable, unresettable, and unoverwritable.

19. (Original) A method as in claim 15 further comprising storing a fault time.

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20. (Amended) A method of time stamping and indicating a deployment event within an automotive vehicle having a RCM, said method comprising:

sensing a collision;

generating a collision signal in response to said collision;

deploying a restraint in response to said collision signal;

storing a deployment time;

storing a fault time; and

A method as in claim 19 further comprising indicating when said deployment time corresponds with said fault time.

21. (Amended) A method of time stamping and indicating a deployment event within an automotive vehicle having a RCM, said method comprising:

sensing a collision;

generating a collision signal in response to said collision;

deploying a restraint in response to said collision signal;

storing a deployment time;

storing a fault time; and

A method as in claim 19 further comprising indicating cause of said fault time.

22. (Amended) A method of time stamping and indicating a deployment event within an automotive vehicle having a RCM, said method comprising:

sensing a collision;

generating a collision signal in response to said collision;

deploying a restraint in response to said collision signal;

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storing a deployment time; and

A method as in claim 15 further comprising storing restraint power draw during the deployment event.

23. (Amended) A method of time stamping and indicating a deployment event within an automotive vehicle having a RCM, said method comprising:

sensing a collision;

generating a collision signal in response to said collision;

deploying a restraint in response to said collision signal;

storing a deployment time; and

A method as in claim 15 further comprising continuously indicating a fault in response to the deployment event.

At
Concluded